STORY #4

Give me a love potion please
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A LIBRARY FOR TWO, A SECRET TEMPERATURE

THAT GIRL OVER THERE!!
EH?
Who is that girl?!
AHH—
KAME?
SHE'S A FAMOUS SHUT-IN.
CLASS A'S KAME.
*Kame means turtle
SHE ONLY COMES TO SCHOOL OCCASIONALLY AND WHEN SHE DOES, SHE DOESN'T TALK TO ANYONE.
I HEARD THAT SHE'S PRETTY WEIRD.

KAME!
I SEE...
IS KAME ABSENT AGAIN?!
KAME-SAN WAS IN THE CLASSROOM MOMENTS AGO, RIGHT?
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
EVEN ON THE RARE TIMES THAT SHE COMES TO SCHOOL, SHE LEAVES EARLY
SHE ALWAYS DITCHES P.E. JEEZ...
ACHOO

IT'S SNOW-ING.
LOOKS SO COLD.
THIS OLD LIBRARY IS TRULY A GOOD PLACE.
NO ONE USES IT.
I CAN ENTER WHEN-EVER I WANT!!
CLATTER
Let's go to the forest...
SO COLD !!
AND THE LADY AT THE FRONT IS ALWAYS WATCHING TV.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO WRITE A REPORT IN SUCH A COLD ROOM?
BE QUIET; YOU'RE TOO LOUD—
LOUD
NOISY
Eh.

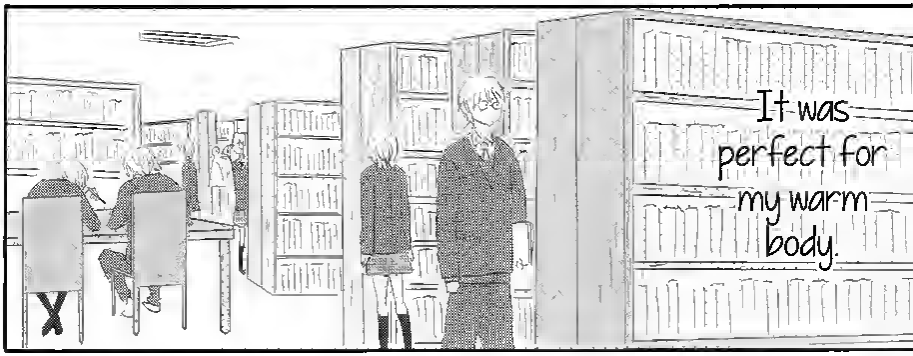
CREAK
AUGH...
No way, why?!
Noisy
I need to hide!
CLATTER
Startled
HM?

HA—
WAAAA
!!!
AH... CLASS A'S...
What the heck?!
Whoa-aaaad!
I'LL SIT THERE, SINCE I'M THE TEACHER! GO OVER THERE!
Step
Step
WHY ARE YOU SITTING AT THE END OF THE TABLE? ARE YOU PLANNING ON LAZING AROUND?!

Hm?
HAVE A LOOK.
IT'S SO NOISY OVER THERE.
I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE UNLESS I SIT HERE.
Loud
Loud
Noisy
INDEED!
THEY SHOW NO SIGNS OF WRITING A REPORT.
Saaa-aafe!
HEY.
YOU GUYS!!
STOMP
STOMP

YOU CAN LEAN ON MY LEGS.
YOU MUST FEEL CRAMPED LIKE THAT!

A good person...?
Wait but
Should I just touch a stranger's legs...
It is cramped, but...
...



IT FEELS NICE...

AHAHA—
HAHA!!!
Soaked

HOW MUCH IS IT? WILL 5,000 YEN SUFFICE?!
F...
FIVE THOUSAND YEN...?
Wet
YOU'RE GIVING ME THAT MUCH?
AHA HA HA
So lucky!!
TH-THAT'S WHY I SAID...
BLUSH
THAT I'LL PAY FOR THE CLEANING FEES!
Ahahaha-haha!!
WHO NORMALLY DROOLS THIS MUCH?

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
HEY!
THAT'S WHY THIS HAPPENED!!
SO WELL...
"Thank you..."
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAME OVER TO ME.
I accidentally fell asleep."
"I'm so sorry that I drooled on you."
UM...
"for protecting me."
Squeeze
I want to tell him my true feelings but...
See, now he's angry
...
Quiet...
That's why I don't like talking with...
OKAY THEN, 3,000 YEN PLEASE.

AH... OKAY, WAIT THEN...
Pfft.
I'M KID-DING.
.....!?
YOU'RE SO FUNNY, KAME-CHAN—!!
EH?
PFFFT
THERE'S NO WAY CLEANING FEES COST THAT MUCH!!
Ahaha
YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED.

PFFT
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "IMAG-INED?"
A SECRET.
Ding dong
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
OH YEAH.
Ah my stomach hurts...
COULD I USE THIS PLACE STARTING FROM TOMOR-ROW?
WHA... NO!
DEFI-NITELY NO!
THIS IS A PLACE ONLY FOR ME...
BAM

IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY...
I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS PLACE...?
GRIN
SHE'S REALLY CUTE!
PFFFT
Really?!
EH?!

Ding
Dong
What should I do!
Why do I have to listen
to some stranger's orders?!
SQUEEZE
Ah! He's...!
SO COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW TOO.

FWIP
GRIN
He's in classroom across from me.
Pitter
Pitter
I never knew that
Whisper
DO HAWA-KUN AND KAME-SAN KNOW EACH OTHER?
Glance
Giggle
Shh! She can hear you!
...So his name is Hawa...
Whisper
NO WAY, KAME SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS...
She's always alone.
Whisper
HE SMILED AT HER RIGHT?

"Come to school tomorrow too."
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE DIDN'T HATE ME WHEN I TALKED TO THEM.
Also the first time that I was called funny.
PFFT
You're so funny!
How long has it been since I talked to someone?
LOOK AT THIS.

SHE DOESN'T REALLY LEAVE HER SHELL...
MY PET KAMEKO.
NO! NO THANKS!
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER.
I'LL SEND YOU THIS PICTURE.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
How so???
DOESN'T SHE LOOK JUST LIKE YOU, KAME-CHAN?
OH YEAH.
OHH— SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME?
And like... well... um...
I DON'T SEND TEXTS AND STUFF...
Agh.
STARE
IF YOU DON'T...

BLING.
I DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT!
WHY IS HE LIKE THIS, JEEZ...
Today, Kameko peeked outside
—END—
Ufu-fu...
ISN'T IT COLD HERE?
...NOT REALLY.

I'M WARMING MY HANDS!
Fidget Fidget
What are you doing?
BUT YOU LOOK REALLY COLD.
I HAVE PRETTY HIGH BODY HEAT.
MY THIGHS ARE REALLY WARM, SO I WARM MY HANDS UP REAL QUICK!
BADUMP
IF YOU DON'T WARM THEM...
REALLY? WARM MINE TOO!
N-NO WAY, PERVERT!
I'M KIDDING.
Pppp
Pffffffft
You make funny faces.

I wonder why...
I don't hate it
The heck...
He's irritating, but
You're funny, Kame-chan.
...IF IT'S WITH MY HANDS, I CAN...
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WOULD WARM YOU UP THOUGH.
WAH, YOUR HANDS REALLY ARE COLD!
They're like ice!!

I wanted to know who sat in that seat
So I was always bothered by it
And your seat was always empty, Kame-chan
...EVER SINCE THE THIRD TRIMESTER STARTED, I SAT IN THAT SEAT.
?
YEAH...
AM I THE ONLY PERSON YOU TALK TO AT SCHOOL?
KAME-CHAN...
I SEE...
I won-der...

Why can I hold a conversation with this person?
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
KAME-CHAN.
BUT LIKE.. IT'S TOO LATE AT THIS POINT.
WHAT'S UP WITH KAME-SAN THESE DAYS?
Giggle
Giggle
SHE'S BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY

I WANTED TO GO HOME WITH YOU.
Why are you mad?
WHY ARE YOU COMING TO MY CLASS-ROOM?
Look!
ISN'T THAT HAWA-KUN FROM CLASS D?
ARE YOU CRAZY? WHY WOULD I GO HOME WITH...
HEY...
Giggle
Giggle
MAYBE HAWA-KUN'S PRETTY WEIRD TOO...
Whisper
I'M SURPRISED HAWA-KUN CAN TALK TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
SHE DOESN'T REPLY TO US WHEN WE TALK TO HER.
Whisper
Ehhh—
KAME CAN TALK?
Whisper

Bye bye.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SEEN WITH ME.
I'M GOSSIPED ABOUT QUITE A BIT ON A DAILY BASIS.
IT WILL MAKE YOU LOOK BAD.
I WASN'T ABLE TO TALK WITH OTHERS PROPERLY SINCE I WAS KID.
AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
SO I'M FINE WITH THAT.
SO EVEN IF YOU LEAVE NOW...
PFT
ARE YOU BOTHERED ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THE KAME-CHAN THAT'S IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW IS THE REAL KAME-CHAN.
IS THAT ALONE NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

But why...
HAWA-AAA!!
There really are people like him, huh...
Why is he with me...
WOW, YOU'RE SERIOUSLY ON GOOD TERMS WITH KAME-SAN.
AH, THESE ARE MY CLASSMATES, OGI AND TAKADA.
Nice to meet you—
I DON'T SEE YOU AT SCHOOL OFTEN, KAME-SAN.
I DIDN'T ATTEND SCHOOL MUCH TOO. THANKS TO HAWA-KUN, I'M ABLE TO ATTEND PROPERLY NOW!
Ehe.
HAWA LOVES TO PICK UP STRAY CATS AND DOGS~
Ahaha
When was that even...
.....

WAIT, KAME-CHAN!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH YOU.
Why are you so far ahead?
Heeeey
THAT PERSON OVER THERE IS DIFFERENT FROM ME.
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER...
I want to ask him...
IF YOU WANT THAT OLD LIBRARY, YOU CAN HAVE IT. I WON'T GO THERE ANYMORE.
YOU JUST WANTED THAT PLACE, RIGHT, HAWA-KUN?
I WAS JUST THREATENED BY YOU AND WAS FORCED TO COME TO SCHOOL.
If I'm special to him, I want him
to tell me why.
...WAS I FORCING YOU?

THEN FORGET IT.
WHOOSH

ARE YOU SKIPPING SCHOOL TODAY TOO?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN LEAVING YOUR ROOM...
YOUR TEACHER CONTACTED YOU...
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GOING FOR A WEEK.
'CAUSE...
There's no reason for me to go to school
ROLL
ONE WEEK...
Phone...
I LOST TRACK OF TODAY'S DATE...
HEY, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

New Message
YOU SEEMED TO BE HAVING FUN EVERY DAY.
Today, Kameko popped out for the first time in a while.
– END –
POOF
UGH, TOO LATE NOW.
No way
THIS CAME THE DAY BEFORE YESTER-DAY.
Reason...
The reason that I went to school
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL...

I was always alone.
And I was fine with that.
But somewhere inside of me, I always
always
Wanted to meet someone like Hawa-kun.
Ah, I see.
I WANT TO SEE HIM...
That's all I want.

Ah...
IT'S BEEN A WEEK...
squeeze
Hey.
GOO...
YOOO~ HAWA!
DING DONG

HE DOESN'T SIT THERE ANYMORE, HUH...
HE'S NOT HERE.
He's...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
moved on already...

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
Just kidding.
DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME THAT MUCH?
I've always
THAT'S NOT IT...

YOUR HANDS ARE COLD.
AH...
wanted to convey myself with kind words
IT'S SNOWING AGAIN, SO...
. . .
Ugh, so cold.
But I can't do it properly
At least, I'll...
GIVE ME YOUR HANDS.
I'LL WARM THEM FOR YOU.

Then maybe
little by little, some-thing...

might change.

‹END›